

Abstract

A method of solution dyeing a polymeric material during polymerization to form a base color shade, and subsequently externally dyeing the polymeric material by either yarn dyeing or piece dyeing to produce a final color shade. The base shade that is
5 formed may then be transformed into a desired final shade chosen from a wide variety of final shades. Ultraviolet protection is also provided in the solution dyeing step, by introducing an ultraviolet stabilizing agent into the polymeric melt. By providing a yarn or a substrate having a solution dyed base color that may be transformed into a wide variety of different final color shades, inventory is more likely to be utilized rather than
10 wasted. Less inventory space is required, and the process is much more efficient. Material handling costs are decreased with a lower inventory, fewer stock keeping units of starting material are required, and the threat of obsolescence of the remaining inventory is diminished. Further, lightfast qualities in the final product are enhanced, and the final shade may be applied late in the fabric formation process, thus allowing
15 quick response to customer color orders.